

a13 --Before aging, as shown in FIG. 36(b), arbitrary locations on the crankshaft were measured for surface hardness (HRC), and three crankshafts No. 1 - No. 3 were tested. The results are shown in Table 6.--

Please replace the heading at page 57, line 26, with the following rewritten heading:

--Table 6--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 58, line 1, with the following rewritten paragraph:

a14 --As shown in FIG. 36(c), the hardness measurement points after aging were 7 locations (1) - (7) on the crankshaft for surface and internal hardness. The results are shown in Table 7:--

Please replace the heading at page 58 line 5, with the following rewritten heading:

--Table 7--

In the Claims

Please amend claims 1 and 2 to read as follows:

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C1 1. (Amended) A billet of steel for continuous cold forging, characterized by 0.46 - 0.48 wt % of C (carbon), 0.14 or less of Si (silicon), 0.55 - 0.65 wt % of Mn (manganese), 0.015 wt % or less of P (phosphorus), 0.015 wt % or less of S (sulfur), 0.15 wt % or less of Cu (copper), 0.20 wt % or less of Ni (nickel), and 0.35 wt % or less of Cr (chromium), such that a limiting upsetting ratio of 90 % or more.

2. (Amended) A billet of steel for continuous cold forging, characterized by 0.46 - 0.48 wt % of C (carbon), 0.14 or less of Si (silicon), 0.55 - 0.65 wt % of Mn (manganese), 0.015 wt % or less of P (phosphorus), 0.015 wt % or less of S (sulfur), 0.15 wt % or less of Cu (copper), 0.20 wt % or less of Ni (nickel), and 0.35 wt % or less of Cr (chromium), such that a carbide of the billet has an aspect ratio of 300 % or less.

Please cancel claims 3-28, without prejudice. Claim 1 has been rewritten to include the limitation of claim 3. Claims 4-28 are drawn to a different invention and may be the subject of a divisional application.